

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. XII. December 12, 1851. No. 2.*

J. C. ADAMS, Esq., President, in the Chair.
W. S. Bohn, Esq., York Street, Covent Garden ; and
J. J. Waterstone, Esq., of Bombay,
were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

Extract of a Letter from Professor Challis, dated Jan. 10, 1852.

“ I have been at considerable pains to get at the truth about the supposed new planet, and last night I believe I succeeded. The object observed by Dr. De Gasparis, Dec. 8 and 9, must have been *Japetus*. By a rough calculation I find that the place of this satellite at that time, and its change of position relative to *Saturn*, sufficiently accord with the observations. This is the only satellite whose right ascension could differ as much as 30^s from that of *Saturn*. Although Dr. De Gasparis states that he took account of *Japetus*, I conceive that he must have mistaken *Titan* for *Japetus*, or perhaps some other object was supposed to be *Japetus*. M. Rümker’s place is, I conceive, an observation of *Titan*. I ascertained this last night, having found *Titan* in the same position relative to *Saturn* which the object observed by M. Rümker had on Dec. 24; and the interval between Jan. 9 and Dec. 24 (16 days) is very nearly *Titan*’s periodic time. I have seldom, perhaps never, seen the satellites of *Saturn* so bright as they now appear; and I am not surprised that *Titan* should be taken for one of the asteroids. It is a good 9th magnitude, and was visible, notwithstanding its proximity to *Saturn*, in the finder of our telescope.”

VICTORIA.

DURHAM. Fraunhofer Equatoreal. (Mr. R. C. Carrington.)

1851.	Green. M.T.			R.A.			N.P.D.			No. of Comps. in		
	h	m	s	h	m	s	°	'	"	R.A.	N.P.D.	Set.
Nov. 4	12	48	54.8	8	14	18.22	77	16	3.0	8	4	1
18	12	29	48.7	18	8	23	78	23	28.0	12	5	2
22	13	39	29.8	8	18	20.51	78	40	54.4	24	8	3

* This Notice contains all the papers received up to the date of going to press. The January Number will consist of the purely astronomical phenomena observed during the solar eclipse of 1851, July 22.

	1851.	Green. M.T.			R.A.			N.P.D.			No. of Comps. in		Set.
		h	m	s	h	m	s	°	'	"	R.A.	N.P.D.	
Nov.	24	13	0	43.3	8	18	17.84	78	48	54.8	22	8	4
	27	13	15	18.5	18		1.07	79	0	30.7	24	8	5
	28	13	17	56.1	17		52.40	79	4	12.6	23	8	6
Dec.	21	13	2	12.5	7		14.09	80	2	5.4	24	8	7
	22	11	28	0.2	8	6	31.25	80	3	14.8	24	8	8
		12	11	16.4			29.45			19.5	24	8	9

Parallax taken from the Supplement to the *Nautical Almanac*, 1854.

Assumed *Mean Places of Stars of Comparison*, 1851.0.

Name.	R.A.			N.P.D.			Set.
	h	m	s	°	'	"	
Weisse, viii ^h , 381	8	14	55.90	77	20	22.8	1
— viii ^h , 488	18		39.63	78	29	28.2	2
B.A.C. 2806	15		45.95	78	53	30.0	3, 4, 5, 6
Weisse, viii ^h , 96	4		46.53	79	58	44.0	7, 8
— viii ^h , 189	8	8	9.14	80	8	26.1	9

Sets 1, 2. Planet excessively faint, 12th magnitude. Great difficulty in observing it at all.

— 3 to 6. B.A.C. 2806 taken from Edinburgh Observations, 1837.

5 and 7. Sky foggy on these two nights.

LIVERPOOL.

Equatoreal.

(Mr. Hartnup.)

	1852.	Green. M.T.			R.A.			N.P.D.			Comp ^d —Obs ^d		Star of Comp.
		h	m	s	h	m	s	°	'	"	R.A.	N.P.D.	
Jan.	17	10	47	18.1	7	41	26.35	79	54	35.2	—4.19	—15.9	B.A.C. 2636
	18	11	29	8.8	7	40	21.57	79	52	51.3	4.24	18.4	—
		11	44	6.4			20.97			46.1	4.29	14.3	—
		11	59	3.2			20.14			44.7	4.11	14.0	—
	20	11	34	9.5	7	38	16.19	79	49	7.9	4.28	16.7	—
		11	52	5.9			15.27			7.0	4.14	17.1	—
		12	10	2.5			14.42			4.5	4.07	16.1	—
	23	10	49	22.8	7	35	13.05	79	43	66.3	4.17	18.4	—
		11	17	19.3			11.82			62.6	4.12	17.3	—
		11	37	15.3			10.86			59.9	—4.00	—16.4	—

The observations are corrected for refraction and parallax. The computed places were deduced from the ephemeris circulated by the Superintendent of the *Nautical Almanac*.

The following assumed *mean* place of the star of comparison for Jan. 0.1852, has been derived from various modern catalogues.

	R.A.			N.P.D.		
	h	m	s	°	'	"
B.A.C. 2636	7	47	28.80	80	44	53.3